

## CONSENT DECREE

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## **I. BACKGROUND**

A. The United States of America ("United States"), on behalf of the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), filed a complaint in this matter pursuant to Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, as amended ("CERCLA"), seeking reimbursement of response costs incurred for response actions taken at or in connection with the release or threatened release of hazardous substances at the Virgin Islands Department of Health Site in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas (EPA CERCLIS Site #VI0002384329); Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Site in Kingshill, St. Croix (EPA CERCLIS Site #VISFN0204233); and Virgin Islands Sub Base Site in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas (EPA CERCLIS Site #VI0001260561) ("the Sites").

B. The defendant ("Settling Defendant") does not admit any liability to Plaintiff arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the complaint.

C. The United States and Settling Defendant agree, and this Court by entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by the Parties in good faith, that settlement of this matter will avoid prolonged and complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this Consent Decree is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest.

THEREFORE, with the consent of the Parties to this Decree, it is ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

## **II. JURISDICTION**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613(b) and also has personal jurisdiction over Settling Defendant. Solely for the purposes of this Consent Decree and the underlying complaint, Settling Defendant waives all objections and defenses that it may have to jurisdiction of the Court or to venue in this District or Division. Settling Defendant shall not challenge the terms of this Consent Decree or this Court's jurisdiction to enter and enforce this Consent Decree.

## **III. PARTIES BOUND**

2. This Consent Decree is binding upon the United States and upon Settling Defendant and its successors and assigns. Any change in ownership or corporate or other legal status, including but not limited to, any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter the status or responsibilities of Settling Defendant under this Consent Decree.

## **IV. DEFINITIONS**

3. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent Decree that are

defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA shall have the meanings assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in any appendix attached hereto, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. "CERCLA" shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, *et seq.*
- b. "Consent Decree" shall mean this Consent Decree.
- c. "Day" shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.
- d. "DOJ" shall mean the United States Department of Justice and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- e. "EPA" shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any successor departments, agencies or instrumentalities of the United States.
- f. "EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund" shall mean the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507.
- g. "Interest" shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each year.
- h. "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by an Arabic numeral or an upper or lower case letter.
- i. "Parties" shall mean the United States and Settling Defendant.
- j. "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including but not limited to direct and indirect costs, that EPA or DOJ on behalf of EPA has paid at or in connection with the Sites through December 1, 2005, plus accrued Interest on all such costs through such date.
- k. "Plaintiff" shall mean the United States.
- l. "Section" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a Roman numeral.
- m. "Settling Defendant" shall mean the Government of the Virgin Islands.

n. "Sites" shall mean the Virgin Islands Department of Health Site on Veterans Drive in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas (EPA CERCLIS Site #VI0002384329) (EPA Site/Spill No. 02-LR); Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Site on Route 70 near River Road in Kingshill, St. Croix (EPA CERCLIS Site #VISFN0204233) (EPA Site/Spill No. 02-PD); and Virgin Islands Sub Base Site in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas (EPA CERCLIS Site #VI0001260561) (EPA Site/Spill No. 02-GJ).

o. "United States" shall mean the United States of America, including its departments, agencies and instrumentalities.

#### **V. PAYMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS**

4. Payment of Past Response Costs to EPA. Within 30 days of entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall pay to EPA \$354,500, plus an additional sum for Interest on that amount calculated from December 1, 2005 through the date of payment.

5. Payment shall be made by FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") to the U.S. Department of Justice account in accordance with EFT instructions provided to Settling Defendant by the Financial Litigation Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of the Virgin Islands following lodging of the Consent Decree.

6. At the time of payment, Settling Defendant shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA and DOJ in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill Numbers 02-LR, 02-PD and 02-GJ, DOJ case number 90-11-3-07531, and the civil action number.

7. The total amount to be paid pursuant to Paragraph 4 shall be deposited in the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund. (EPA's internal allocation for principal is 62% for EPA Site/Spill No. 02-GJ, 20% for EPA Site/Spill No. 02-LR, and 18% for EPA Site/Spill No. 02-PD. EPA's internal allocation for Interest is 100% to EPA Site/Spill No. 02-GJ.)

#### **VI. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONSENT DECREE**

8. Interest on Late Payments. If Settling Defendant fails to make payment under Paragraph 4 (Payment of Response Costs) by the required due date, Interest shall continue to accrue on the unpaid balance through the date of payment.

9. Stipulated Penalty.

a. If any amount due under Paragraph 4 is not paid by the required date, Settling Defendant shall be in violation of this Consent Decree and shall pay to EPA, as a stipulated penalty, in addition to the Interest required by Paragraph 8, \$500 per violation per day that such payment is late.

b. Stipulated penalties are due and payable within 30 days of the date of the demand for payment of the penalties by EPA. Such payments shall be identified as "stipulated penalties" and shall be made by Electronic Funds Transfer EFT, remitted to EPA's account at Mellon Bank, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. To make a stipulated penalty payment, Settling Defendant shall provide the following information to its bank:

- . Amount of payment
- . Title of Mellon Bank account to receive the payment: EPA
- . Account code for Mellon Bank account receiving the payment:
- . Mellon Bank ABA Routing Number: 043000261
- . Name of Settling Defendant: Government of the Virgin Islands
- . Case number: (Civil Action Number of this Consent Decree)
- . Site/spill identifier: 02-GJ

Along with this information, Settling Defendant shall instruct its bank to remit payment in the required amount via EFT to EPA's account with Mellon Bank.

c. At the time of each payment, Settling Defendant shall also send notice that payment has been made to EPA and DOJ in accordance with Section XII (Notices and Submissions). Such notice shall reference the EPA Region and Site/Spill ID Numbers VI0002384329, VISFN0204233 and VI0001260561, DOJ Case Number 90-11-3-07531, and the civil action number.

d. Penalties shall accrue as provided in this Paragraph regardless of whether EPA has notified Settling Defendant of the violation or made a demand for payment, but need only be paid upon demand. All penalties shall begin to accrue on the day after payment is due and shall continue to accrue through the date of payment. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

10. If the United States brings an action to enforce this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall reimburse the United States for all costs of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.

11. Payments made under this Section shall be in addition to any other remedies or sanctions available to Plaintiff by virtue of Settling Defendant's failure to comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree.

12. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive payment of any portion of the stipulated penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Consent Decree. Payment of stipulated penalties shall not excuse Settling Defendant from payment as required by Section V or from performance of any other requirements of this Consent Decree.

## **VII. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFF**

13. Covenant Not to Sue by United States. Except as specifically provided in Section VIII (Reservation of Rights by United States), the United States covenants not to sue or to take administrative action against Settling Defendant pursuant to Section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a), to recover Past Response Costs. This covenant not to sue shall take effect upon receipt by EPA of all payments required by Section V, Paragraph 4 (Payment of Response Costs) and any amount due under Section VI (Failure to Comply with Consent Decree). This covenant not to sue is conditioned upon the satisfactory performance by Settling Defendant of its obligations under this Consent Decree. This covenant not to sue extends only to Settling Defendant and does not extend to any other person.

## **VIII. RESERVATIONS OF RIGHTS BY UNITED STATES**

14. The United States reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to, all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to all matters not expressly included within the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff in Paragraph 13. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Consent Decree, the United States reserves all rights against Settling Defendant with respect to:

- a. liability for failure of Settling Defendant to meet a requirement of this Consent Decree;
- b. liability for costs incurred or to be incurred by the United States that are not within the definition of Past Response Costs;
- c. liability for injunctive relief or administrative order enforcement under Section 106 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9606;
- d. criminal liability; and
- e. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments.

## **IX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY SETTLING DEFENDANT**

15. Settling Defendant covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any claims or causes of action against the United States, or its contractors or employees, with respect to Past Response Costs or this Consent Decree, including but not limited to:

- a. any direct or indirect claim for reimbursement from the Hazardous Substance Superfund based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision of law;

b. any claim arising out of the response actions at the Sites for which the Past Response Costs were incurred, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the laws of the Virgin Islands, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law; or

c. any claim against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, relating to Past Response Costs.

16. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute approval or preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. 300.700(d).

17. Settling Defendant agrees not to assert any claims and to waive all claims or causes of action that it may have for all matters relating to each of the Sites, including for contribution, against any person where the person's liability to Settling Defendant with respect to the particular Site is based solely on having arranged for disposal or treatment, or for transport for disposal or treatment, of hazardous substances to such Site, or having accepted for transport for disposal or treatment of hazardous substances at such Site, if all or part of the disposal, treatment, or transport occurred before April 1, 2001, and the total amount of material containing hazardous substances contributed by such person to such Site was less than 110 gallons of liquid materials or 200 pounds of solid materials.

18. The waiver in Paragraph 17 shall not apply with respect to any defense, claim, or cause of action that a Settling Defendant may have against any person meeting the above criteria if such person asserts a claim or cause of action relating to the Sites against Settling Defendant. This waiver also shall not apply to any claim or cause of action against any person meeting the above criteria if EPA determines:

a. that such person has failed to comply with any EPA requests for information or administrative subpoenas issued pursuant to Section 104(e) or 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) or 9622(e), or Section 3007 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act or "RCRA"), 42 U.S.C. § 6927, or has impeded or is impeding, through action or inaction, the performance of a response action or natural resource restoration with respect to the Sites, or has been convicted of a criminal violation for the conduct to which this waiver would apply and that conviction has not been vitiated on appeal or otherwise; or

b. that the materials containing hazardous substances contributed to the Sites by such person have contributed significantly, or could contribute significantly, either individually or in the aggregate, to the cost of response action or natural resource restoration at the Sites.

#### **X. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION**

19. Except as provided in Paragraph 17 (Non-Exempt De Micromis Waiver), nothing in



this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in, or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Consent Decree. The Parties expressly reserve any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to contribution except as otherwise provided in Paragraphs 17 and 18), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action that they may have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the Sites against any person not a Party hereto.

20. The Parties agree, and by entering this Consent Decree this Court finds, that Settling Defendant is entitled, as of the date of entry of this Consent Decree, to protection from contribution actions or claims as provided by Section 113(f)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2), for “matters addressed” in this Consent Decree. The “matters addressed” in this Consent Decree are Past Response Costs.

21. Settling Defendant agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought by it for matters related to this Consent Decree, it will notify EPA and DOJ in writing no later than 60 days prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Settling Defendant also agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against it for matters related to this Consent Decree, it will notify EPA and DOJ in writing within 10 days of service of the complaint or claim upon it. In addition, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ within 10 days of service or receipt of any Motion for Summary Judgment, and within 10 days of receipt of any order from a court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Consent Decree.

22. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating to the Sites, Settling Defendant shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or claim based upon the principles of waiver, *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, issue preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the claims raised by the United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph affects the enforceability of the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff set forth in Section VII.

## **XI. RETENTION OF RECORDS**

23. Until five years after the entry of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall preserve and retain all records, reports, or information (hereinafter referred to as “records”) now in its possession or control, or which come into its possession or control, that relate in any manner to response actions taken at the Sites or the liability of any person under CERCLA with respect to the Sites, regardless of any retention policy to the contrary.

24. After the conclusion of the five-year document retention period in the preceding paragraph, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ at least 90 days prior to the destruction of any such records, and, upon request by EPA or DOJ, Settling Defendant shall deliver any such records to EPA. Settling Defendant may assert that certain records are privileged under the

attorney-client privilege or any other privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Defendant asserts such a privilege, it shall provide Plaintiff with the following: 1) the title of the record; 2) the date of the record; 3) the name, title, affiliation (e.g., company or firm), and address of the author of the record; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of the subject of the record; and 6) the privilege asserted. If a claim of privilege applies only to a portion of a record, the record shall be provided to Plaintiff in redacted form to mask the privileged information only. Settling Defendant shall retain all records that they claim to be privileged until the United States has had a reasonable opportunity to dispute the privilege claim and any such dispute has been resolved in the Settling Defendant's favor. However, no records created or generated pursuant to the requirements of this or any other settlement with the EPA pertaining to the Sites shall be withheld on the grounds that they are privileged.

25. Settling Defendant hereby certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, after thorough inquiry, it has not altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed or otherwise disposed of any records, reports, or information relating to its potential liability regarding the Sites since notification of potential liability by the United States or the filing of suit against it regarding the Sites and that it has fully complied with any and all EPA requests for information pursuant to Sections 104(e) and 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6972.

## **XII. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS**

26. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, notice is required to be given or a document is required to be sent by one party to another, it shall be directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or their successors give notice of a change to the other party in writing. Written notice as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States, EPA, DOJ and Settling Defendant, respectively.

As to the United States:

As to DOJ:

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice (DJ # 90-11-3-07531)  
P.O. Box 7611  
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611

Anthony J. Jenkins  
United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands  
James S. Carroll III  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

As to EPA:

Eduardo J. Gonzalez  
Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
1492 Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 417  
San Juan, PR 00907-4127

George Pavlou  
Director  
Emergency & Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

Rich Manna  
Chief, Financial Management Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
290 Broadway, 29th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

As to Settling Defendant:

Kerry E. Drue  
Attorney General  
Matthew C. Phelan  
Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Justice  
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade  
GERS Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

### **XIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

27. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of interpreting and enforcing the terms of this Consent Decree.

### **XIV. INTEGRATION**

28. This Consent Decree constitutes the final, complete and exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the settlement embodied in this Consent Decree. The Parties acknowledge that there are no representations, agreements or understandings relating to the settlement other than those expressly contained in this Consent Decree.

### **XV. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

29. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not less than 30 days for public notice and comment. The United States reserves the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent Decree disclose facts or considerations which indicate that this Consent Decree is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Settling Defendant consents to the entry of this Consent Decree without further notice.

30. If for any reason this Court should decline to approve this Consent Decree in the form presented, this agreement is voidable at the sole discretion of any party and the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation between the Parties.

### **XVI. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE**

31. The undersigned representative of Settling Defendant to this Consent Decree and the Deputy Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice each certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and bind legally such Party to this document.

32. Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree, unless the United States has notified Settling Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.

33. Settling Defendant shall identify, on the attached signature page, the name and address of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on its behalf with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant hereby agrees to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including but not limited to, service of a summons. The Parties agree that Settling Defendant need not file an answer to the complaint in this action unless or until the Court expressly declines to enter this Consent

Decree.

**XVII. FINAL JUDGMENT**

34. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by the Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute the final judgment between and among the United States and the Settling Defendant. The Court finds that there is no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as a final judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54 and 58.

SO ORDERED THIS \_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
United States District Judge

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES enter into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States of America v. Government of the Virgin Islands, relating to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Site, the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Site and the Virgin Islands Sub Base Site.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
ELLEN MAHAN  
Deputy Chief  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES O. PAYNE, JR.  
Attorney  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 4390  
Washington, DC 20044-4390

ANTHONY J. JENKINS  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
Joycelyn Hewlett  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
5500 Veterans Drive, Suite 260  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

\_\_\_\_\_  
GEORGE PAVLOU  
Director  
Emergency & Remedial Response Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree in the matter of United States of America v. Government of the Virgin Islands, relating to the Virgin Islands Department of Health Site, the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture Site and the Virgin Islands Sub Base Site.

FOR DEFENDANT GOVERNMENT OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
DARLENE CARTY  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Health  
48 Sugar Estate  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARC BIGGS  
COMMISSIONER  
Department of Property and Procurement  
Property and Procurement Building No. 1  
Sub Base, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
KERRY E. DRUE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Department of Justice  
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade  
GERS Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
MATTHEW C. PHELAN  
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Department of Justice  
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

FOR DEFENDANT GOVERNMENT OF THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLES W. TURNBULL  
GOVERNOR OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
21-22 Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Agent Authorized to Accept Service on Behalf of Government of the Virgin Islands:

KERRY DRUE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Department of Justice  
34-38 Kronprindsens Gade  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802